

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that he helped secure \$1,016,234 in federal economic recovery funds for Sullivan County Head Start to expand its Early Head Start programs in both Monticello and Woodridge. The funds come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Hinchey actively supported and voted for earlier this year.

"The Head Start program is a critical service for these communities, especially as we continue to face difficult economic and social challenges," said Hinchey. "I am pleased that the Early Head Start Expansion program has awarded these funds to Sullivan County Head Start. This invaluable program will now be able to expand their services, and a greater number of families will be able to benefit from their programs."

Hinchey actively supported Sullivan County Head Start's grant application. The federal funding will be used to expand from 45 to 95 the number of infants and toddlers up to age three that Sullivan County Early Head Start serves. In order to accommodate additional children, the organization will use the funds to add one full class in Monticello and four in Woodridge. The agency estimates that it will hire an additional 12 early childhood development teachers to assist with implementing the expansion. Through its traditional Head Start program, which serves pre-school children, the organization currently serves 255 children above age three.

"This grant award is very exciting, and we look forward to expanding our services. We now have more than 200 children on our waiting list for this program, and this expansion will help to meet the great need for early childhood development in Sullivan County," said Bertha Williams, Executive Director of Sullivan County Head Start.

Since its inception in 1956, Head Start has been the United States' most successful and longest running school readiness program. Currently, Head Start provides education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low income families nationwide. To date, Head Start has served nearly 25 million children.